



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1938,

FOR THE

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

BY

KEITH S. RODEN,

M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

TO THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	51,453
Estimated Resident Population, 1938	11,220
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938)	3,684
Rateable Value	£50,419
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£211 12s. 4d.

The District is mainly agricultural, although a number of workers at the Salt Union Works, Stoke Works, reside within the area.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	97	75	172
Illegitimate	6	7	13
Totals	103	82	185

Birth-rate per 1000 of Estimated Population 16.488

Still Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	5	3	8

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes 	80	68	148

Death-rate per 1000 of the Estimated Population 10.552
Number of Deaths from Puerperal Causes 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate 	8	2	10
Illegitimate 	—	—	—
Totals 	8	2	10

Death-rate of Infants under one year per 1000 Live Births,
54.054.

Deaths from :	M.	F.	Total.
Cancer (all ages) 	11	10	21
Measles (all ages) 	—	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) 	—	—	—
Diarrhoea 	1	—	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health KEITH S. RODEN, M.B., Ch.B.
Sanitary Inspector OSWALD SHARPE, Cert.S.I.B.,
A.R.San.I.

There is no change in the services provided by the Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing, Clinics, and Hospitals, which continue to be satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—There have not been any new sources of water supply during the period under review ; the construction of the water mains to provide a water supply in North Claines Parish has been commenced and the Engineer reports that good progress is being made.

All cases of minor contamination of wells have been dealt with.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The construction of the sewers and outfall works to serve Fernhill Heath was commenced during 1937, and the Engineer reports that satisfactory progress is being made.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was necessary during the period under review.

Closet Accommodation.—The Council had no scheme for the conversion of closets from the conservancy system to the water carriage system during the period under review, but it is hoped that such a scheme will be commenced when the new water supply and sewerage schemes are fully operating at Fernhill Heath.

Public Cleansing.—Further progress was made in this direction during the year, when the Council reorganised the system of removing Dry Domestic Refuse and extended the service to the whole of the Rural district, giving a minimum service in the scattered portions of the district of a collection once per quarter.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The report of the Sanitary Inspector, dealing with the work carried out during the year, is attached.

Shops.—No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year.

Smoke Abatement.—It was not found necessary to take any action during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There was no necessity for any action to be taken in connection with Swimming Baths and Pools. There is only one swimming bath in the area, which is privately owned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.—Two houses, privately owned, were found to be verminous, and in each case disinsection, by spraying, was carried out by the Council.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions and water supply at the several schools was satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 143 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | .... |  |  |  |  |  | 197 |

2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	87
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	102
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	62

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	28
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (informal)....	57
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
--	------

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit						Nil.
---	------	------	------	------	------	------

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	64
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	64
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	383
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	21
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	183
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—Milk Producers' premises have been visited during the year and the samples taken have proved satisfactory.

Meat and other Foods.—The four licensed slaughter-houses within the district continue to be conducted satisfactorily, although it is found that the major portion of the meat is purchased by the Butchers in the Wholesale Markets.

Adulterations, etc.—It has not been found necessary to take action during the year with regard to the adulteration of food.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—The chemical and bacteriological examination of food is carried out by the County Analyst, and no routine sampling was carried out by the Council's Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.—The following Table shews the incidence of Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during the year :—

Disease.	Total No. of Cases		Total Deaths.
	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	39	24	1
Diphtheria	14	10	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia....	4	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following Table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
25—	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45— ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
55— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	1	2	2	3	2	1	1

My thanks are due to Mr. D. Johnston Green, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Oswald Sharpe, the Sanitary Inspector, and their Staffs, for the help they have given me in compiling this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KEITH S. RODEN, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

30th July, 1939.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ending the 31st December, 1938.

The period under review is not outstanding by way of any particular development in any one branch of the Department's activities. Although Air Raid Precautions is not necessarily part of the work of a Public Health Department, a considerable proportion of the work was being carried out during the first part of the year by this Department, and at the time of the Crisis in September, normal work came to a standstill, the staff of this Department, like all other Departments and Local Authorities generally, concentrating on Air Raid Precautions.

Since the crisis every effort has been made to minimise the effect of Air Raid Precautions upon the normal work of the Department with little success, and it would appear that Air Raid Precautions and such like organisation of National Defence must be regarded as a new and important branch of work, of no mean character, to be added to the duties of this Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shews the incidence of infectious disease in the several parishes :—

Parish.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.
North Claines	12	1
Crowle	—	—
Dodderhill	3	—
Doverdale	—	—
Elmbridge	2	—
Elmley Lovett	—	1
Hadzor	—	—
Hampton Lovett	—	—
Hanbury	—	—
Hartlebury	8	8
Himbleton	1	—
Hindlip	—	—
Huddington	—	—
Martin Hussingtree	—	—
Oddingley	—	—
Ombersley	10	2
St. Martin (County)	—	—
Salwarpe	—	—
Stock and Bradley	—	—
Tibberton	—	—
Upton Warren	—	3
Warndon	3	—
Westwood	—	—
Total Number of Cases	39	15

In thirty-four instances the patients were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Bromsgrove, the remainder being satisfactorily isolated at home.

One case of Para-typhoid B. was notified in the Parish of Ombersley. Full investigations were made; the water supply was analysed, and the owner cleansed the well. The drainage system and cesspool was cleansed and disinfected by the Council. It was not, however, possible to ascertain the origin of this case.

During the latter half of August and the early part of September, two cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred in North Claines Parish. Careful investigations were made, but no

contact was established between the two cases. In both instances there were numerous contacts from all parts of the country, but it was not found that any contact had occurred with this disease.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with during the period under review :

No. of Houses inspected	143
No. of Dwelling-houses found unfit for habitation	9
No. of Dwelling-houses not in all respects fit for habitation	62
No. of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit after informal action	28
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs or defects to be remedied	57
No. of Dwelling-houses subsequently rendered fit after notice by (a) The Owner	28
(b) The Local Authority	—
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
No. of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings not to use premises for human habitation were given by owners	4
No. of yards paved or repaved	11
No. of Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc., observed	56
No. of Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc., dealt with as insanitary	29
No. of drains laid or relaid	145
No. of drains trapped, ventilated or repaired	127
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	63
No. of House drains tested	215
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	27
No. of Privy or Pail conversions, including additional water-closets	14
No. of defective water-closets remedied	3
No. of additional water-closets put in	4
No. of Dirty Houses dealt with	4
No. of Verminous Persons dealt with	—
No. of Verminous Houses dealt with	2

The attention of landowners was drawn to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, regarding land used as sites for moveable dwellings, and as a result six licences were issued

permitting 392 moveable dwellings in respect of approximately 35 acres.

These sites, mostly situated near the River Severn, were mainly occupied at week-ends and holiday periods, and there was a considerable improvement in the manner in which the camping was conducted as compared with previous years.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

The following Table shows the position as to overcrowding at the 31st December, 1937, and the 31st December, 1938.

	1937.	1938.
No. of Dwelling-houses overcrowded	85	64
No. of Families dwelling therein	85	64
No. of persons dwelling therein	566	383
No. of New Cases of Overcrowding	5	1
No. of cases of Overcrowding relieved	45	21
No. of Persons concerned in such cases	269	183

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

It is the practice when serving informal notices in respect of houses not in all respects fit, to draw special attention to the provisions of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and it is gratifying to note that the number of properties dealt with under these Acts has increased.

During the year eight cottages were reconditioned and schemes were approved in respect of eleven other cottages, of which three were in progress at the close of the period under review.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of Registered Dairy Farms	166
No. of Registered Producers	166
No. of Registered Retailers	69
No. of Milking Cows (approximately)	2599

The following Table shews the number of Licences issued on the 1st January, 1939, as compared with previous years:—

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
No. of Production and Bottling Licences	2	4	4	4	3
No. of Production Licences	—	19	23	25	31

The number of producers of designated milk continues to increase, and from the details of Licences granted by the County Council on the 1st January, 1939, it is noted that approximately 14 per cent of the Accredited Milk Producers in the County are within this area.

No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	4
No. of Licensed Slaughtermen	....	....	....	7
No. of Cases of Slaughtering on unlicensed Premises				27
No. of Inspections	....	....	....	54
No. of defects found	....	....	....	5

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage and sewage disposal works owned by the Council have received regular supervision throughout the period under review.

The scheme for the provision of sewerage facilities within the Parish of North Claines was commenced early in the year, and good progress has been made.

The Council have had under consideration a preliminary report for a sewerage scheme in Hartlebury, and the same has been submitted to the County Council.

At the end of the period under review no definite decision had been made as to the provision of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes to serve Dodderhill, Upton Warren, or Ombersley.

WATER SUPPLY.

The scheme for the provision of a public water supply in North Claines Parish was commenced early in the year, and good progress has been made.

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company's water main is available in the Parishes of Dodderhill and Upton Warren. the water supply in the remainder of the district is derived from wells.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with in relation to water supply during the year 1938 :—

No. of Wells sunk	....	....	....	....	18
No. of Wells cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	....	14
No. of Wells closed	....	....	....	....	2
No. of Houses supplied from waterworks	....	....	....	....	11
No. of samples submitted for analysis	....	....	....	....	34
No. of Houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	....	....	....	....	18

SCAVENGING.

In June, the system of Collection of Dry Domestic Refuse in operation in the Parishes of Dodderhill, Ombersley, Hartlebury and North Claines was reviewed and extended to the whole of the Rural District.

The Council contract for the hire of suitable vehicles and employ their own labour, the whole of the work being carried out under the supervision of this department.

The following is a summary of the work done during the period under review :—

No. of Houses from which refuse was removed	....	3541
No. of Privies cleansed	....	290
No. of Ashpits cleansed	....	202
No. of Portable receptacles cleansed	....	2020
No. of Ashpits removed and ashbins provided	....	182
No. of Houses from which refuse is removed at		
(a) Fortnightly intervals	....	1500
(b) Monthly intervals	....	900
(c) Quarterly intervals	....	1141

NEW BUILDINGS.

Although plans for 263 new buildings were deposited and dealt with during the year, the number of houses erected and completed was only 41.

The development of a further 417 acres has been considered during the year, making a total of 2117 acres since the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1933, came into operation in 1935. The Council had granted permission for the development of 1038 acres by the end of the period under review.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their help and willing assistance throughout the period under review.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

OSWALD SHARPE, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

RURAL COUNCIL OFFICES,

DROITWICH.

25TH MARCH, 1939.

